

MONEY

in real life



Weighing Love at First Sight With Regular Care Costs

Pets can be a loving addition to any family — but soft meows and wagging tails can weigh heavily on your wallet. When adopting, consider these tips:



Include pet food in the grocery list and be sure to budget for toys.



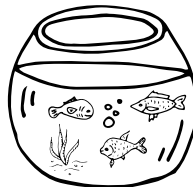
Maintain physical well-being with regular grooming and set aside time for daily exercise, which may mean hiring a dog walker.



Plan ahead for vet visits or prescriptions, and build your emergency fund for unexpected medical costs.



Budgeting for new accommodations? You may need to factor in a pet deposit.



Look to the [Office of Financial Readiness](#) for more information and follow @DoDFINRED on:



Even though pets are considered part of the family, they won't be on your PCS orders or join you on deployments, unaccompanied tours and temporary duty travel assignments. In these instances, you'll be responsible for funding their move or securing other care accommodations. Ensure you've saved for when you can't be the primary caregiver.

